

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2336

INFO SEC DEF WASH DC

DIA WASH DC//RCM-2//

USCINCEUR, VAIHINGEN, GER//ECJ4/7

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

CNO WASH DC

CSAF WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 2320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR

SUBJECT: OPN SHABA: DETAILED JUSTIFICATION, ZAIRIAN REQUEST FOR
FOLLOW ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) KINSHASA 2184, (B) KINSHASA 2223, (C) KINSHASA 2169

1. SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES, WE HAVE DEVOTED
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO AN ASSESSMENT OF ZAIRIAN MILITARY NEEDS
WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR ABILITY TO RECEIVE AND MOVE TO THE FRONT
ESSENTIAL ITEMS NEEDED TO ENHANCE A FAZ MILITARY RESPONSE TO THE
CURRENT SHABA THREAT. OUR ASSESSMENT ALSO IS BASED ON A DETAILED
COMPARISON OF:

A. KNOWN FAZ TYPE/QUANTITY MATERIAL/SPARES.

B. GOZ PARALLEL REQUESTS TO GOB AND GOF AND THEIR RESPONSES

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THERETO. THIS MESSAGE THEN WILL ADDRESS THE MILITARY
SITUATION FOR OPERATION SHABA. JUSTIFICATION FOLLOWS FOR SPECIFIC
ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT KEYED TO REF (A) AND (B), AND PRIORITIES
WHICH WE FEEL ARE DICTATED BY THE SHABA TACTICAL SITUATION.

2. INVADING FORCE

A. FAZ REPORTED THAT INVADING FORCES CROSSED BORDER SUPPORTED

BY LONG-RANGE ROCKET FIRE. DURING ENSUING ACTIONS FAZ HAS REPORTED ENCOUNTERING SMALL ARMS, MACHINE GUNS, BAZOOKA TYPE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND LONG-RANGE FIRES. WHILE NO HARD INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US IN KINSHASA SINCE THERE ARE NO INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE, WE SURMISE FROM TALKS WITH BELGIAN MILITARY COLLEAGUES THAT THE INVADING FORCE IN SHABA CONSISTS OF AT LEAST 1000 TO 1500 WELL-DISCIPLINED AND WELL-ARMED TROOPS. ONE MUST FURTHER ASSUME THAT REINFORCEMENTS SITUATED IN ANGOLA ARE AVAILABLE TO THE INVADERS.

B. THE INVADER HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF INTERIOR LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND A MAJOR SUPPLY FACILITY LOCATED A RELATIVELY SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE FRONT, (HENRIQUE DE CARVHALO).

C. THE SITUATION IS DEVELOPING SO THAT A PATTERN MAY BE DISCERNED. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE MAIN EFFORT IN SHABA IS CURRENTLY IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR, ASTRIDE THE DILOLO/KOLWEZI AXIS, WITH A POSSIBLE FINAL OBJECTIVE BEING THE REGIONAL CAPITAL OF LUBUMBASHI. HOLDING ACTIONS TO THE NORTH ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO SECURE THE LEFT (NORTH FLANK; THE RIGHT SOUTH FLANK IS SECURED BY ANGOLAN/ZAMBIAN BORDER.

D. NO HARD REPORTS OF ENEMY AIR AS YET.

3. FAZ SITUATION

A. GROUND - STARTING FROM PRACTICALLY ZERO STRENGTH, (ONLY SMALL FAZ GENDARME POSTS LACKING ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS), THE FAZ NOW HAS AVAILABLE IN THE AO THE COMBAT ELEMENTS OF FIVE INFANTRY MANEUVER BATTALION EQUIVALENTS, AN ARMORED CAV TROOP CONSISTING OF PANHARDS PLUS SMALL LOGISTICAL ELEMENTS WITH EACH BATTALION. ADDITIONALLY, FOUR U.S. M113APC'S (ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS) HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTED TO AO.

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B. AIR

(1) AIRLIFT - USING A COMBINATION OF AIR ZAIRE COMMERCIAL DC10 AND DC8 PLUS AVAILABLE C130 AIRCRAFT, FAZA SUCCESSFULLY IMPLACED THREE INFANTRY BATTALIONS AT KAMINA, KOLWEZI, AND LUBUMBASHI ON 11, 12, AND 13 MARCH. SINCE THE OPERATION COMMENCED, THE FOUR OPERATIONALLY READY C130 AIRCRAFT AND THREE DH5C BUFFALOS HAVE FLOWN DAILY SORTIES TO AND WITHIN THE SHABA AREA.

(2) TAC AIR - FAZA HAS REHABILITATED THREE MACCHI AIRCRAFT AND HAS DEPLOYED THEM TO THE AO. ADDITIONALLY, FOUR MIRAGES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE AO. NEITHER TRAINING/EXPERIENCE NOR ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT EXISTS FOR CONDUCT OF EFFECTIVE CLOSE SUPPORT MISSIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE MIRAGES.

C. NAVY - WHILE THE NAVY IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AO, THEY ARE MENTIONED BECAUSE THEY ARE CARRYING OUT IMPORTANT COASTAL SURVEILLANCE MISSIONS ALONG THE MOUTH OF THE ZAIRE RIVER AND SURVEILLANCE/DETECTION OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF ZAIRE ON LAKE TANGANYIKA WITH US PROVIDED SWIFT BOATS.

D. COMMAND/CONTROL - COMMAND/CONTROL IS FRUSTRATED BY A GENERAL LACK OF EQUIPMENT AND LONG DISTANCES INVOLVED. OVERALL, FAZ

COMMAND/CONTROL EQUIPMENT IS ANTIQUATED AND LOW-POWERED. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY ONE RADIO IS AVAILABLE HERE IN KINSHASA TO LINK FAZ TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER IN KOLWEZI WITH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND IT IS MOUNTED ON A JEEP.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR SPECIFIC FOLLOW ON ITEMS REQUESTED REF (A) AND (B) ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

A. MUNITIONS - GENERAL. GOZ REQUEST FOR US AMMUNITION ARE ONLY FOR US PECULIAR CALIBER WEAPONS ALREADY PROVIDED GOZ. ALL FIVE MANEUVER BATTALIONS IN AO ARE ARMED WITH M16 RIFLES. BABIA INFORMED CZAMISH THAT TWO MILLION ROUNDS WERE IN COUNTRY PRIOR TO AGGRESSOR ATTACK (WE CAN CONFIRM THIS IS TRUE). HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING URGENT REQUESTS FOR AMMO AND MAGAZINES FOR FRONT LINE UNITS. 1.5 MILLION ROUNDS CURRENTLY IN AIRLIFT SUPPLY LINE. WE CANNOT ASSESS FAZ FIRE DISCIPLINE NOR CURRENT CONSUMPTION RATES BUT REASONABLE TO US TO USE TABLE 5.25 FM101-10-1 AS A GUIDE. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST:
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- (1) M16 AMMO - SUFFICIENT FOR A FIVE INFANTRY BN FORCE OPERATING IN DEFENSIVE AND EVENTUALLY CLEAR AND SECURE OPERATIONS.
- (2) 4-2 MORTAR - SUFFICIENT FOR SUSTAINED SUPPORT OF A 15 TUBE ELEMENT OPERATING WITH INF UNITS (THREE PER BN). THESE NOT CURRENTLY IN AO BUT FAZ INTENDS TO LIFT.
- (3) 50 CAL LINKED - SUFFICIENT FOR SUSTAINED SUPPORT OF TRACK-MOUNTED M60 IN SUPPORT OF INF BN.
- (4) LAW - ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS IN EVENT ENEMY TANK THREAT DEVELOPS.

WE REITERATE, THE ABOVE REQUEST FOR AMMO IS BASED ON THE USG AS A SOLE SUPPLIER FOR USG FURNISHED WEAPONS ALREADY IN GOZ INVENTORY.

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 MC-02 ACDA-07 /082 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2337
INFO SEC DEF WASH DC
DIA WASH DC//RCM-2//
USCINCEUR, VAIHINGEN, GER//ECJ4/7
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
JCS WASH DC
CSA WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
CSAF WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 2320

B. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT:

- (1) COMMO PACKAGE 1 - AN/GRC-19'S WITH EXTERNAL POWER WILL BE USED IN AO FOR BOTH COMMAND AND ADMIN/LOG NETS. A MINIMUM OF TWO SETS EACH WILL BE LOCATED AT KOLWEZI, KAMINA AND LUBUMBASHI PROVIDING SHORT TO MEDIUM RANGE AM COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE AREA.
 - (2) COMMO PACKAGE 2 - THE HIGH POWER HFSSB STATIONS WILL BE PUT INTO SERVICE PROVIDING PRIMARILY COMMAND VOICE AND ADMIN/LOGISTICS NET FROM KINSHASA TO AO HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN KAMINA AND KOLWEZI. SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE RELIABLE LONG-MEDIUM RANGE COMMUNICATIONS REPLACING A MELANGE OF ANTIQUATED AND BARELY OPERABLE EQUIPMENT PRESSED INTO EMERGENCY SERVICE.
 - (3) CSP FOR 100 EACH AN/AGC 77 RADIOS, THE TACTICAL RADIO USED BY FAZ IN AO.
 - (4) CSP FOR THE AN/VRC 46, 47 TRACK-MOUNTED RADIOS.
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- (5) DS/GS TEST EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FOR BOTH PRC77 AND VRC-42 FAMILY OF RADIOS.
- (6) BATTERIES FOR AN/PRC-77 RADIOS, IAW SB11-6
- (7) SIGNAL MARKER PANELS - REQUIRED FOR GROUND FORCE IDENTIFICATION TO PREVENT INADVERTANT CASUALTIES FROM CLOSE AIR SUPPORT. (IAW, INF BN TOE).

C. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) M113A1 - CSP (SPARE PARTS) AS REISSUE TO SUPPORT APC'S BEING DEPLOYED TO AO. (GOZ PLANS ON SIX)
 - (2) M35A2 - 18 TONS OF CSP DUE TO ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT EARLY APRIL ON DELTA BRAZIL FOR 200 EACH RECENTLY ACQUIRED. CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IS 50 KALEMIE, 50 AIR FORCE, 30 GENDARME, 100 ARMY, 20 TRANSPORTATION SCHOOL. REQUIRED NOW TO SUPPORT AIRLIFT AND POL RESUPPLY OPERATIONS.
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| - TIRES AND TUBES | 10 PC REPLACEMENT FACTOR |
| - BATTERIES | 5 PC REPLACEMENT |
| - COMPRESSOR BELTS | 5 PC REPLACEMENT |
- M151A1&2 - TOTAL 300 IN COUNTRY ON FMS COMMERCIAL BASIS (NAPCO).
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| - TIRES AND TUBES | 10 PC REPLACEMENT |
|-------------------|-------------------|

- BATTERIES 5 PC REPLACEMENT
- 100 AMP IGNITION SYSTEM FOR
RADIO JEEPS. QTY 6 10 PC REPLACEMENT
- PROP SHAFTS - FRONT AND REAR 10 PC REPLACEMENT
(3) SWIFT BOATS - DDN RECENTLY PURCHASED (FOR CASH) SEVEN TONS OF
SPARE PARTS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT LOCKHEED/MARIETTA, GEORGIA.
THEY HAD PLANNED TO TRANSPORT ITEMS ON C130 SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY
IN MAY. RECEIPT OF THESE CRITICALLY NEEDED SUPPLIES WOULD
SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE PATROL SURVEILLANCE/DETECTION OPERATIONS,
IN AREA WHERE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL
ATTACKS.

5. C-130 AIRCRAFT:

A. SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION SHABA, THESE AIRCRAFT HAVE
BEEN THE WORK HORSES OF THE FAZA TRANSPORT FLEET. THEY ARE
CURRENTLY OPERATING WITH A CRITICAL LACK OF SPARE PARTS. FOR
EXAMPLE, ON 14 MARCH ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS FORCED TO TAKE OFF
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FROM KOLWEZI LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, FOR RETURN TO KINSHASA, USING
ONLY THREE OF ITS FOUR ENGINES. THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR THE
FAILED PART HERE IN KINSHASA, SO A TEMPORARY REPAIR WAS MADE ON
THE EXISTING DAMAGED PART. THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE TYPE OF
MAINTENANCE THAT WILL CONTINUE IF SPARES ARE NOT RECEIVED ON A
CONTINUOUS AND ON A REQUIRED BASIS.

B. C-130 REPAIR OF TANGO CHARLIE BRAVO AND EARLY DELIVERY OF NEWLY
PURCHASED AIRCRAFT: THE FOUR AIRCRAFT ARE BEING USED AT AN
EXCESSIVE RATE. TWO HAVE OVER-FLOWN PHASE INSPECTION; THEY ARE
STILL BEING KEPT O/R BUT WE DO NOT FEEL THAT AIRCRAFT FLYING
12-16 HOURS A DAY CAN SUSTAIN THIS IN COMMISSION RATE.
ACCORDINGLY IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO REPAIR BRAVO AS MENTIONED IN
REFTEL (A) AND TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF NEW AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED
FOR MAY ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED.

6. MACCHI AIRCRAFT: SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND EMPHASIS ON
SPARE PARTS TO REHABILITATE MACCHI AIRCRAFT IN REFTEL (A).
EFFECTIVE CLOSE SUPPORT MISSIONS FLOWN BY THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE
A DECIDING FACTOR IN STOPPING ENEMY ADVANCE AND PROVIDING
PSYCHOLOGICAL/MORALE SUPPORT TO FRIENDLY FAZ GROUND FORCES.

7. INDIVIDUAL

A. COMBAT RATIONS - THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING NEED FOR EITHER C
OR LRRP RATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE OPERATION. AN ADEQUATE
DIET IS IMPORTANT FOR NORMAL, HEALTHY, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL/MENTAL
WELL-BEING OF TROOPS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE FEEL THAT AN INSURED
FOOD SOURCE OF SUPPLY WILL REDUCE OR PRECLUDE TROOPS FROM LIVING
OFF THE COUNTRYSIDE. IF FAZ TROOPS MUST COMPETE WITH THE POPULATION
FOR THE LIMITED FOOD SOURCES AVAILABLE, THE FAZ FORCES MAY BE
VIEWED BY THE POPULATION AS THE INVADING ENEMY FORCE,
ESPECIALLY SINCE FAZ TROOPS HAVE RARELY OPERATED IN THIS PART OF

ZAIRE AND MOST ARE LINGALA SPEAKING (OFFICIAL FAZ LANGUAGE)
OPERATING IN A SWAHILI SPEAKING AREA.

B. MEDICAL SUPPLIES: NUMEROUS REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF
HOSPITALS IN KOLWEZI BEING FULL OF FAZ CASULTIES. SPECIFIC NEEDS
FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE FORWARDED AS DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, IN
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THE MEANTIME, ATTENTION MIGHT BE FOCUSED ON DISPATCHING BASIC
MEDICAL KITS FOR CORPSMEN, BATTALION AID STATIONS, AND NORMAL
MEDICAL SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR FIELD HOSPITALS.

8. PRIORITIES - AS EQUIPMENT IS ASSEMBLED AND AIRCRAFT LOADS ARE
MADE UP, AMMUNITION IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL AND REQUIRES HIGHEST
PRIORITY - COMMUNICATIONS AND C130 SPARE PARTS SHOULD RECEIVE
CO-EQUAL PRIMACY. ADDITIONAL SPARE PARTS FOR WHEELED AND TRACKED
VEHICLES ARE THEN NEEDED AND FINALLY MEDIAL SUPPLIES AND RATIONS
SHOULD BE SHIPPED WHENEVER THERE IS SPACE ON AN AIRCRAFT.

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